

The New Testament in Byzantium

DUMBARTON OAKS SYMPOSIUM, 26–28 APRIL 2013
SYMPOSIARCHS: ROBERT S. NELSON AND DEREK KRUEGER

The New Testament lay at the center of Byzantine Christian thought and practice. Scribes copied its gospels and epistles, producing enormous numbers of manuscripts, complete and partial, that circulated throughout the empire. But codices and rolls were neither the sole nor most important way the Byzantines understood the New Testament. Lectionaries apportioned much of its contents over the course of the liturgical calendar; its narratives structured the experience of liturgical time and shaped the nature of Christian preaching, even long after the end of the Patristic era of composing biblical commentaries. Quoted, alluded to, and expounded, the New Testament inspired and fueled the genres of hagiography and hymnography. Patrons and illustrators brought scenes from the life of Christ and his apostles to manuscripts, icons, and the walls of churches. Preachers, theologians and political theorists drew inspiration and authority from its teachings.

Following the successful symposium and volume on the Old Testament in Byzantium, this symposium extended the investigation to ask: What was the New Testament for Byzantine Christians? What of it was known, how, when, where, and by whom? How was this knowledge mediated through text, image, and rite? What was the place of these sacred texts in Byzantine arts, letters, and thought? Speakers drew upon the current state of textual scholarship and explored aspects of the New Testament, particularly as it was read, heard, imaged, and imagined in lectionaries, hymns, homilies, and saints' lives, and as it was illustrated in miniatures and monuments. Participants were directed to the role of the New Testament in framing theological inquiry, ecclesiastical controversy, and political thought, in order to develop our understanding of the New Testament and its varied reception over the long history of Byzantium.

FRIDAY, 26 APRIL

Introduction

Derek Krueger

New Testament Textual Traditions in Byzantium

David Parker (University of Birmingham)

Illustrated Greek Gospel Books and New

Testament Textual Criticism

Kathleen Maxwell (Santa Clara University)

Elective Affinities: The Genealogy of Byzantine New Testament Manuscripts

Georgi R. Parpulov (Lincoln College, Oxford)

Lectionaries of Constantinople

Robert S. Nelson (Yale University)

Producing New Testament Manuscripts in

Byzantium: Scribes, Scriptoria, and Patrons

Nadezhda Kavrus-Hoffman (Independent Scholar, New York)

SATURDAY, 27 APRIL

Bearing Witness: New Testament Women in Syriac and Byzantine Hymnography
Susan Ashbrook Harvey (Brown University)

The Hagiographer's Bible
Derek Krueger (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)

New Testament Exegesis in Byzantium
Tia M. Kolbaba (Rutgers University)

Giving Voice to the New Testament in Byzantine Chant
Alexander Lingas (City University London)

The Appropriation of the New Testament by Middle Byzantine Preachers: Mediating an Encounter with the Word
Mary Cunningham (University of Nottingham)

The Reception of Paul and Pauline Theology in the Late Byzantine Period
Fr. Maximos of Simonopetra (Nicholas Constas) (Mount Athos)

The Afterlife of the Apocalypse of John in Byzantium
Stephen Shoemaker (University of Oregon)

SUNDAY, 28 APRIL

Time and Narrative in Church Spaces
Charles Barber (University of Notre Dame)

Narrating the Sacred Story: New Testament Cycles in Middle and Late Byzantine Church Decoration
Nektarios Zarras (University of the Aegean)

Concluding Remarks
Robert S. Nelson